

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TAGS: OCON, UNWFC

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE - NOVEMBER 11 PLENARY

1. MORNING SESSION OF PLENARY AGAIN BEGAN WITH GENERAL DEBATE, NATIONAL STATEMENTS FINALLY CONCLUDING SAME EVENING.

HIGHLIGHTS:

A. LIBYA - BLAMED U.S. AND OTHER SUPERPOWERS FOR CURRENT FOOD CRISIS, WHICH RESULT OF PAST EXPLOITATION OF LDCS. DEFENDED HIGH OIL PRICES AS NECESSARY TO COMBAT INFLATION CAUSED BY OVER CONSUMPTION BY SUPERPOWERS.

B. PORTUGAL - MUCH OF SPEECH DVOTED TO DENOUNCING PREVIOUS "FASCIST" REGIME AND CONGRATULATING THEMSELVES ON NEW POLICY TOWARDS AFRICAN COLONIES.

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C. KUWAIT - SPEECH EMPHASIZED INCREASED AGRICULTURAL

PRODUCTION AS SOLUTION TO FOOD CRISIS. COMMITED KUWAIT TO CONTINUE PROVIDING AID ALTHOUGH NO SPECIFIC AMOUNT OF FINANCING MENTIONED OTHER THAN 5,000 TONS OF FERTILIZER TO BE DONATED TO LDCS THROUGH FAO. KUWAIT ALSO INDICATED THEY ARE AGAINST CREATION NEW INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

D. ALBANIA - PROTESTED ACCREDIATION KHMER GOVERNMENT. MADE GENERALLY POLITICAL SPEECH ATTACKING SUPERPOWERS.

E. WFP - MAIN PITCH WAS FOR MORE FINANCING FOR WFP AND CREATION OF STRATEGIC STOCKPILES FOR EMERGENCY USE BY WFP. AQUINO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LONG TERM SOLUTION TO FOOD AND NUTRITION PROBLEM IS NOT FOOD AID BUT IMPROVED INCOMES, BETTER EDUCATION, INCREASED PRODUCTION, AND MORE EXPORTS. HOWEVER, IN SHORT RUN LARGE QUANTITIES OF FOOD AID WILL BE NEEDED AND MORE SHOULD BE CHANNELED THROUGH WFP.

2. AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION OPENED WITH ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT OF MEXICO LUIS ECHEVERRIA.

A. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA IMMEDIATELY LAUNCHED INTO ROUSING POLEMIC AGAINST COLONIALIST EXPLOITATION AND CALLED FOR NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER.

B. ECHEVERRIA BLAMED THE DCS FOR UNDERDEVELOPMENT, WHICH HE SAID WAS COMPLEMENT OF PREVAILING WORLD SYSTEM. BASIC CAUSES OF WORLD CRISIS WHICH ARE REFLECTED IN TECHNOLOGY, INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER IDEOLOGY: TECHNOLOGY AN EXTENSION OF POWER POLITICS; CONSUMER IDEOLOGY, WHICH SQUANDERS RAW MATERIALS, DESTROYS ECOLOGICAL BALANCE, ETC., DISREGARDS COLLECTIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. UNDERDEVELOPMENT, THEREFORE, IS MERELY RESULT OF THE MORAL AND MATERIAL VIEWS OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ORDER. ECHEVERRIA AGREED WITH ARGENTINA AND CUBA THAT EEC AND US HAVE RUINED OR IMPEDED DEVELOPMENT OF WORLD AGRICULTURE.

C. HAVING PLACED BLAME ON DCS, ECHEVERRIA THEN MADE SEVERAL INTER-RELATED PROPOSALS WHICH HE SAID MEXICO WOULD SUPPORT. THESE INCLUDED INTER ALIA:

(1) A WORLD FOOD PLAN WHICH HE SAID SHOULD BE EXPANDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO INCLUDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, EDUCATION, ETC.
(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORLD FOOD BANK TO INCLUDE FINANCING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. ALL MEMBERS WOULD CONTRIBUTE WHAT THEY COULD. IT WOULD BE ADMINISTERED BY COUNCIL COMPOSED OF DCS AND LDCS, BE DEMOCRATIC IN NATURE, PROMOTE HIGH PRIORITY FOOD PROJECTS, FINANCE SYSTEM OF FOOD SECURITY AND BE NEW INSTITUTION. (RELATION TO (1) ABOVE NOT CLEAR.)

D. FINALLY, ECHEVERRIA SAID DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE NOT HELPLESS. CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES IS CENTRAL AND FOOD HAS PRIORITY. WOULD REPLACE OLD INSTITUTIONS DOMINATED BY DCS WHICH DO NOT REFLECT THIRD-WORLD VIEWS. THIS INCLUDES FAO AND UN MUST SUPPLY NEW FRAMEWORK.

E. PRESIDENT CONCLUDED BY OBSERVING THAT IF WFC FAILS TO PRODUCE, IT WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ULTIMATELY RESULT IN RESORT TO VIOLENCE. HE RECEIVED STANDING OVATION.

F. COLOMBIA - FOLLOWED UP ECHEVERRIA'S SPEECH WITH RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF DELEGATES OF ALL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO EXPRESS DEEP AGREEMENT OF PEOPLE OF LATIN AMERICA WITH ECHEVERRIA.

G. BYELORUSSIA - OPENED WITH REGRET THAT PRG NOT INVITED; DID NOT AGREE THAT ALL DCS SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR STATE OF THIRD WORLD; THIS FAULT OF COLONIAL POWERS ONLY.

H. GUATEMALA - MADE MODERATE SPEECH ON BEHALF MEMBERS CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET (CACM). AGREED WITH CREATION WORLD FOOD RESERVE WITH REGIONAL COMPONENTS, SUPPORTED STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION, ADVOCATED INTERNATIONAL INFO SYSTEM, FAVORED FAO PLAYING MAJOR ROLE AND GAVE FULL SYMPATHY WFP.

I. PLO (PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ORGANIZATION) - MADE EXPECTED COMMENTS RE WEST VERSUS OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND CONCLUDED ON RATHER SURPRISING NOTE THAT PALESTINIAN PEOPLE HAVE HUNDREDS WELL TRAINED YOUNG PEOPLE IN AGRICULTURAL FIELD LOOKING FOR JOBS AND AVAILABLE TO HELP OTHER COUNTRIES.

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J. PANAMA - GAVE MILDLY POLITICAL SPEECH BLAMING USG AND TRANSNATIONAL COMPANIES FOR PANAMIAN ILLS. SAID DISAPPOINTED WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH, WHICH FAR CRY FROM WHAT WAS SUGGESTED BY ORIGINAL PROPOSAL TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY. WONDER WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN MEANTIME IN USG. DOES US WISH WEAKEN FAO? NOTED ONLY FOUR COUNTRIES HAD RESPONDED TO FERTILIZER SCHEME. CONTROL OF FOOD RESERVES SHOULD BE INTERNATIONAL.

K. THAILAND - WELCOMED ESPECIALLY WORLD FERTILIZER FUND, THOUGHT IT SHOULD INCLUDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AS WELL. SUPPORTED WORLD FOOD SECURITY POLICY AND NOTED THAILAND ALREADY WORKING ON DEVELOPMENT OF STORAGE CAPACITY. FAVORED WORLD FOOD INFORMATION SYSTEM AND SAID RESULTS WFC SHOULD STRENGTHEN EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (FAO) NOT CREATE NEW ONES.

3. EVENING SESSION:

A. AFGHANISTAN - SUPPORTS NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FOOD RESERVES, PROTECTION OF BIOSPHERE AND POPULATION CONTROL.

B. ZAIRE - READY TO SUPPORT ANY CONCRETE INITIATIVE WHICH WILL PRODUCE COORDINATED ACTION ON FOOD PROBLEM. RESEARCH SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN LDC'S UNDER ACTUAL CONDITIONS. UNWISE TO CREATE FURTHER INSTITUTIONS.

C. UNICEF - NEED FOR ADEQUATE RESERVES AT STRATEGIC LOCATIONS, MONITORING SYSTEMS ON NUTRITION AT LOCAL LEVEL, SPECIAL FEEDING PROGRAMS ON SLECTIVE BASIS.

D. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - SUPPORTED FUND COMPRISED OF FORTUNAE LDC'S AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. URGED ALL FOLLOW-UP BE CONCENTRATED IN ONE AGENCY WORKING THROUGH EXISTING UN BODIES.

E. ETHIOPIA - CRITICIZED SELASSIE REGIME, SUPPORTED IDEA OF FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL. VOLPE

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